

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2730
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2003
FIRE RESISTANT SYSTEM IN COAL MINES
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Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have any plans to improve the fire resistant system in Coal Mines and factories;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reason for the occurrence of fire accidents in the Coal Mines and the remedial steps taken by the Government;
- (d) whether the safety and security in Coal Mines has been compromised in the recent years;
- (e) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the amount allocated, disbursed and spend for the safety and security purposes in Coal Mines and factories during the last three years?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL)

(a)&(b): Comprehensive and detailed provisions for prevention and control of fire in coal mines are contained in Chapter XI of the Coal Mines Regulations, 1957. As regard the factories, the requirements for precaution against fire are covered under Section 38 of the Factories Act, 1948 and Model Rules framed by Directorate General Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes. These provisions are considered sufficient.

(c): The main reasons for the occurrence of fire accidents in Coal Mines are:-

- i) Old fires spreading to a part of the mine from another part or from an adjoining mine.
- ii) Self- combustion of coal.
- iii) Overheating of electrical cable/equipments

The out break of fire is prevented by sealing off the area under fire . In addition to this the management of coal mines are advised to take the following remedial measures:-

- i) Proper ventilation in development galleries and headings.
- ii) Keeping old galleries and return airways cleaned of fallen coal.
- iii) Filling in of cracks developed on surface due to subsidence to prevent leakage of air to sealed areas.
- iv) Proper production planning so that extraction of coal is completed within the incubation period.
- v) Timely detection of leakage of air through isolation stopping in sealed-off areas.

As a result of above mentioned remedial measures there have been no fatal accidents due to fire during the last two years in coal mines

(d): No Sir.

(e): Does not arise.

(f): The Ministry of Labour does not allocate and disburse any fund for the Safety and Security purposes to individual coal mines and factories.